

# SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

9/23/04

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

#### **SB 1349 (BARCIA)**

In 2001, the state made a \$5.0 million zero-interest loan from surplus funds to Michigan Sugar Beet Growers, Inc. to purchase the Monitor Sugar Company. This loan is required to be repaid within five years. SB 1349 would require the term of the zero-interest loan of \$5.0 million made to Michigan Sugar Beet Growers, Inc. to be extended from five years to 30 years. An amendment was adopted in the House to require (shall, instead of may) the state to subordinate the loan.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 1349 [RC 660: 38 yes, 0 no].

# FINAL PASSAGE

#### **SB 1095 (BERNERO)**

SB 1095 delete a provision authorizing a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions on a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. Currently, State pharmacies are not permitted to provide mail-order pharmacy services. Numerous health insurers, including health maintenance organizations, commercial insurers, and the State's Medicaid program, currently contract with out-of-State mail order firms to deliver maintenance drugs to their clients. The use of mail-order pharmacies would not be affected by Senate Bill 1095, but the number of pharmacies eligible for the program would increase. This increase should produce greater competition and marginally lower prices. In addition, some of the mail order businesses would go to Michigan firms, leading to a marginal yet indeterminate increase in tax revenue.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 1095 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.
- SB 1095 passed [RC 672: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### **SB 1243 (Brown)**

SB 1243 would designate the portion of I-69 in Branch County as the "Purple Heart Trail".

• SB 1243 passed [RC 666: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### **SB 1368 (PRUSI)**

SB 1368 would provide for a one-time lapse of \$1.5 million from the available balance of the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund to the General Fund.

• SB 1368 passed [RC 661: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### SB 1369 (SWITALSKI)

SB 1369 would provide a one-time lapse of \$4.0 million from the available balance of the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund to the General Fund.

• SB 1369 passed [RC 662: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### **SB 1376 (EMERSON)**

SB 1376 would eliminate the \$1,000 Merit Award scholarships for students enrolled outside the State of Michigan for the high school graduating class of 2005. The bill would allow the State to save approximately \$4.5 million.

- Garcia 1 (1 amend) was adopted [RC 663: 29 yes, 9 no (DEMS)]. This would allow Class of 2005 graduates to use the Merit scholarship to attend an out-of-state school in any of the five years after this year.
- SB 1376 passed [RC 664: 21 yes, 17 no].

#### **SB 1391 (Brown)**

SB 1391 would authorize the transfer of property in Lansing Township, Clinton County and DeWitt Township in Ingham County, from the Department of Management and Budget to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. The parcel is commonly referred to as the Baker-Olin North Complex and is located at 3423 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. in Lansing. The complex currently consists of three connected buildings, the Records Center, and the Federal Surplus Building, and provides space for staff and services of the Department of Community Health.

The conditions of the buildings are reportedly very poor and contain a number of code violations and health and safety risks. According to Department plans, once the parcel was transferred to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, it would spend \$13.0 million (almost all Federal) to completely renovate and/or demolish the existing facilities in order to house administrative and support functions currently located at the South Washington Armory (Lansing) and the Purchasing and Fiscal Office Complex on St. Joseph Highway (Lansing). This action would consolidate several functions of the Department into new space adjacent to the new Readiness Center, and Combined Maintenance Shop Facility construction projects currently under way across the street from the North Complex.

• SB 1391 passed [RC 665: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### SB 1396 (Garcia)

SB 1396 would amend the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) Act to reduce the amount of new capital investment a business that maintains at least 100 jobs at a single facility must agree to make at a facility to qualify for a single business tax (SBT) credit

- SB 1396 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading. No amendments.
- SB 1396 passed [RC 673: 38 yes, 0 no].

# **HB 4361 (REEVES) HB 4362 (REEVES)**

HBs 4361-62 would require insurance companies to cover nurse midwife services. In addition to or as an alternative to the services described above, the policy or certificate could offer to provide coverage for maternity services and gynecological services rendered during prenatal and postnatal care whether performed by a physician or nurse midwife acting within the scope of his or her license or specialty certification.

HB 4361 would apply to a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan.

• HB 4361 passed with IE [RC 670: 37 yes, 1 no (Sanborn)].

<u>HB 4362</u> would apply to a health maintenance organization contract and an expense-incurred hospital, medical, or surgical policy or certificate.

• HB 4362 passed with IE [RC 671: 37 yes, 1 no (Sanborn)].

#### **HB 5432 (Koetje)**

HB 5432 would provide for a temporary exemption from Occupational Code licensure or registration requirements for a person who was on active duty in the U.S. armed forces in an area designated by the U.S. President as a combat zone.

• HB 5432 passed with IE [RC 667: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### HB 5864 (SAK)

HB 5864 would extend the sunset date on the amount of the fee charged for criminal record checks of fingerprints for employee-related or licensing-related purposes. Under the existing sunset provision, the \$30 fee currently established for such record checks will expire on October 1, 2004; as a result, the fee will revert to a previous level of \$15. The bill would extend the sunset date to October 1, 2007, providing for continuation of the \$30 fee. \$1.5 million is assumed from these fees at the \$30 rate. If action is not be taken to continue the collection of the fee at the \$30 level, and the fee reverts \$15, then the budget for the division will be underfunded by approximately \$750,000.

• HB 5864 passed with IE [RC 669: 37 yes, 1 no (EMERSON)].

#### **HB 5953 (Sheen)**

HB 5953 would allow a taxpayer to designate on his or her annual return a contribution of \$1 or more toward the "Military Family Relief Fund" (proposed by Senate Bill 1269 and House Bill 5954) and allocate 80% of the money designated on annual tax returns to the proposed Fund and 20% to the Post Fund and Posthumous Fund of the Michigan Soldiers' Home.

• HB 5953 passed with IE [RC 668: 38 yes, 0 no].

## THIRD READING

#### **HB 5121 (HUNTER)**

HB 5121 would enable Detroit and Grand Rapids public schools to continue to hire trained, certified police officers to maintain order and safety in their educational communities.

• HB 5121 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading. No amendments.

HB 5906 (Van Regenmorter) HB 5907 (Van Regenmorter)

HB 5906 and HB 5907 are necessary to clarify which individuals may be certified with police powers and to give legislative authority to some entities that currently operate police agencies but have no clear statutory authority to do so under recent interpretations of qualifying organizations.

<u>HB 5906</u> would allow a public body to create a law enforcement agency by resolution of its governing entity. The public body could grant to that law enforcement agency's law enforcement officers the same powers, immunity, and authority as are granted by law to peace officers and police officers to detect crime and to enforce the criminal laws of the State and to enforce State laws, local ordinances, and the public body's ordinances and regulations.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted.
- Cropsey 1A (2 amends) was adopted.
- Cropsey 1B (2 amends) was adopted.
- HB 5906 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.

<u>HB 5907</u> would mandate that law enforcement officers, created under HB 5906, are not empowered to exercise the authority of a peace officer and cannot be employed in a position for which a peace officer authority is granted under the laws of the state unless the following requirements are met: 1) The law enforcement officer has met or exceeded minimum standards for certification. 2) The law enforcement officer is deputized by the sheriff.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- Cropsey 1A (1 amend) was adopted.
- HB 5907 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.